

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows; this listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 - 22 (canceled)

23. (New) An arrangement for removing moisture from items of clothing, comprising:

an absorbent body;

means forming a contact path along which the absorbent body and a first item of clothing are in contact with one another during a moisture transfer run, the contact path having an entry, an exit, and an extent extending between the contact path entry and the contact path exit;

means for disengaging the absorbent body and the first item of clothing from contact with one another at the contact path exit, the absorbent body absorbing moisture from the first item of clothing as the absorbent body and the first item of clothing are in contact with one another along the contact path extent such that the level of moisture retained by the absorbent body is greater at the contact path exit than at the contact path entry;

means for reducing the level of moisture retained by the absorbent body to dispose the absorbent body at a level of moisture at the contact path entry that is lower than the level of moisture retained by the absorbent body at the contact path exit; and

means for advancing the absorbent body and the first item of clothing along the contact path such that the first instance at which the absorbent body is in moisture

absorbing contact with the first item of clothing occurs at the contact path entry, the absorbent body and the first item of clothing are advanced along the contact path to permit the absorbent body to absorb moisture from the first item of clothing, thereby leading to an increase in the level of moisture retained by the absorbent body as the absorbent body and the first item of clothing reach the contact path exit, and the absorbent body and the first item of clothing are advanced out of moisture transferring contact with one another at the contact path exit, the means for advancing being operable to dispose the absorbent body at the contact path entry for a subsequent advancing movement of the absorbent body in contact with a second item of clothing during a subsequent moisture transfer run along the contact path, and the means for advancing and the means forming a contact path being configured such that the level of moisture retained by the absorbent body increases in correspondence with the advancement of the absorbent body and the respective item of clothing along the contact path extent.

24. (New) The arrangement according to claim 23, wherein the absorbent body is trained around a first roller and a second roller for travel of the absorbent body in an endless travel path.
25. (New) The arrangement according to claim 23, wherein the absorbent body includes two loops of absorbent material each trained around a first roller and a second roller for travel of the loop in an endless travel path, each of the loops being disposed on a respective lateral side of the contact path such that the contact path extends between the loops and the loops simultaneously contacting an item of clothing on respective opposite lateral sides thereof during advancement of the absorbent body and the item of clothing along the contact path.
26. (New) The arrangement according to claim 24, wherein the means for reducing the level of moisture retained by the absorbent body includes a squeezing out-roller disposed adjacent the endless travel path of the absorbent body for

mechanically compressing the absorbent body to effect removal of moisture from the absorbent body.

27. (New) The arrangement according to claim 23, wherein the contact path extends in a vertical direction and the means for advancing advances the respective item of clothing in contact with the absorbent body in a vertical direction.
28. (New) The arrangement according to claim 23 and further comprising means for transversely guiding a respective item of clothing being advanced along the contact path, the transversely guiding means being operable to transversely guide a respective item of clothing in a direction transverse to the contact path toward the absorbent body.
29. (New) The arrangement according to claim 23 and further comprising a gas jet acting transversely to a surface of a respective item of clothing that has traveled beyond the contact path exit.
30. (New) The arrangement according to claim 23 and further comprising a compressed air nozzle disposed relative to the contact path to emit a stream of compressed air into contact with a respective item of clothing before the item of clothing is advanced along the contact path.
31. (New) A method for removing moisture from items of clothing, comprising:  
  
advancing an absorbent body and a first item of clothing along a contact path during a moisture transfer run that begins at a contact path entry;  
  
disengaging the absorbent body and the first item of clothing from contact with one another at a contact path exit, the absorbent body absorbing moisture from the first item of clothing as the absorbent body and the first item of clothing are in contact with one another along a contact path extent from the contact path entry to

the contact path exit such that the level of moisture retained by the absorbent body is greater at the contact path exit than at the contact path entry;

reducing the level of moisture retained by the absorbent body to dispose the absorbent body in a condition for a subsequent moisture transfer run with the absorbent body at a level of moisture at the contact path entry that is lower than the level of moisture retained by the absorbent body at the contact path exit, whereupon the absorbent body and the first item of clothing along the contact path are advanced along the contact path such that the first instance at which the absorbent body is in moisture absorbing contact with the first item of clothing occurs at the contact path entry, the absorbent body and the first item of clothing are advanced along the contact path to permit the absorbent body to absorb moisture from the first item of clothing, thereby leading to an increase in the level of moisture retained by the absorbent body as the absorbent body and the first item of clothing reach the contact path exit, and the absorbent body and the first item of clothing are advanced out of moisture transferring contact with one another at the contact path exit, with the result that the level of moisture retained by the absorbent body increases in correspondence with the advancement of the absorbent body and the respective item of clothing along the contact path extent; and

disposing the absorbent body at the contact path entry for a subsequent advancing movement of the absorbent body in contact with a second item of clothing during a subsequent moisture transfer run along the contact path.

32. (New) The method according to claim 31, wherein the step of advancing an absorbent body and a first item of clothing along a contact path during a moisture transfer run includes advancing the absorbent body as the absorbent body is trained around a first roller and a second roller for travel of the absorbent body in an endless travel path.

33. (New) The method according to claim 31, wherein the step of advancing an absorbent body and a first item of clothing along a contact path during a moisture transfer run includes advancing two loops of absorbent material each trained around a first roller and a second roller for travel of the loop in an endless travel path, each of the loops being disposed on a respective lateral side of the contact path such that the contact path extends between the loops and the loops simultaneously contact an item of clothing on respective opposite lateral sides thereof during advancement of the absorbent body and the item of clothing along the contact path.
34. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein the step of reducing the level of moisture retained by the absorbent body includes contacting the absorbent body with a squeezing out-roller disposed adjacent the endless travel path of the absorbent body for mechanically compressing the absorbent body to effect removal of moisture from the absorbent body.
35. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein the contact path extends in a vertical direction and the step of the step of advancing an absorbent body and a first item of clothing along a contact path during a moisture transfer run includes advancing the respective item of clothing in contact with the absorbent body in a vertical direction.